

**Commission on the Status of Men**

Minutes – January 29 2010, 1 – 3:30 PM  
Legislative Office Building Room 206 - Concord, NH

1. Call to Order/Introduction of the Commissioners and Guests - **Chairman Joe Mastromarino was absent. Members finally agreed to call the meeting to order at 1:19. Members Larry Colby, Michael Geanoulis, Scott Meyer and Cam Sinclair were in attendance. Commissioner David Lauren was absent and one seat on the Commission remains empty awaiting the Governor and Governor's Executive Council approval of one of several interested applicants. Guests were: Greg Brede, Peter White and Tim Sanborn**

2. Adopt Agenda – **Larry offered a motion to approve the agenda.**

**Motion: Larry      2<sup>nd</sup>: Michael      Discussion: Michael asked to add HB 2, COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE LIST OF NON-REGULATORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES UNDER PARAGRAPH I (known as committee on committees) as item e under New Business. The motion carried as amended**

3. Secretary's Report/Approval Minutes-12-4-09 – **Larry distributed minutes.**

**Motion: Scott      2<sup>nd</sup>: Larry      Discussion: Michael noted a missing item under New Business from the previous meeting. It had to do with the purchase of seven copies of the NFI (National Fatherhood Initiative) publication, 'Father Facts, fifth edition.' Larry said he will make the correction and the amended minutes were approved. Larry will send them on to Scott Garman for addition to the website**

4. Treasurer's Report – **Treasurer David Lauren was not in attendance. Michael talked about payment for the Father Facts books of \$174.65 and Larry noted that the \$500 dollars approved to support the Fathering Conference was still unpaid. Both Mike and Larry will contact Barry Bodell about these payments**

5. Web Site Update - **Larry sent Scott Garman the approved October minutes w/ attachments and he has placed them on the site. He also has a message about the Fathering Conference there. Michael is interested in locating the 2006 letter from the Commission to the NH Attorney General seeking a closer relationship between the groups and getting it onto the website. He will research this. Scott delivered correspondence from Iris Estabrook of NH CAN (NH Child Advocacy Network) thanking the Commission for its role as Advisor for the Children's Alliance (paper copy attached)**

6. Unfinished Business – **Members agreed to table items noted below recognized Greg Brede for public testimony**
  - a. Commission Seat Update – **Tabled**
  - b. Fathering Outreach/Posters/Tim Palmison - **Tabled**

## Commission on the Status of Men

- c. Legislative Initiatives/Child Support Enforcement audit - **Tabled**
  - d. Model Paternity Bill Update - **Tabled**
  - e. NH HHS Commissioner Toumpas/ Neal Boutin Invitation Update - **Tabled**
7. Public Input I -10 min – **Mr. Brede referenced parental alienation testimony from the Commission’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Report:** During its February 2007 meeting, the Commission invited Dr. Steven Gressit to talk about issues related to Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS): Parental Alienation Syndrome is defined by Dr. Richard Gardner as “a disorder that arises primarily in the context of child-custody disputes. Its primary manifestation is the child's campaign of denigration against a parent, a campaign that has no justification. It results from the combination of a programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the child's own contributions to the vilification of the target parent.’ (Page 15). **Mr. Brede asked Commissioners what happened to this and suggested attention be given to this topic. He talked about the GAL (Guardian ad Litem) Program in the state and suggested that GALS be taught/trained to know about the long-lasting effects of (false) child abuse allegations. He submitted three documents, a letter to the chair of the GAL Board, a letter to members of the Board, and an email message to the NH Child and Family Law Committee (attached). Mr. Brede is seeking contact with his children and has discussed his difficulties in this pursuit**
8. New Business
- a. Causes and Consequences of Father Absence – - **Tabled**
  - b. Commission email List – - **Tabled**
  - c. Officer Duties and Responsibilities - - **Tabled**
  - d. Third NHCSM Biennial Report/Geanoulis draft outline – **Larry distributed Michael’s 1<sup>st</sup> draft. Larry’s suggestions have been added in bold. Some suggested deletions have been struck through. It would be fitting, he suggested, to divide this task up and/or each member take the draft and put it together as he sees fit. It would be helpful and productive to choose a date to be finished by, to decide how the document will be set up, and to think about which sections of the past two reports can be cut and pasted. He further suggested that the Commission’s mission statement, consisting of four bullet points be used as section headings. This will allow business and testimony over the last two years to be roughly divided into four major topics, Cultural Bias, Children and Fathers Together, Men’s Health, and Men’s Education Including Involvement in Their Children’s Schooling. Michael suggested a deadline of May 1 2010 to have the finished copy of the report and agreed that the mission statement points make a logical division. Scott asked if May 1<sup>st</sup> is too late and Commissioners agreed it is not. Larry is hoping for a strong introduction/overview of the last two years and suggests placing items into an end section that puts forward areas we intend to deal with next. He also spoke to the need for Commissioners to review the previous two biennial reports to insure continuity of style and substance. Scott offered his expertise as we submit drafts to each other to help with final editing**

**Commission on the Status of Men**

e. **HB 2, Committee on Committees – Michael talked about the possibility of the NH Commission on the Status of Men being terminated. A committee is meeting to talk about all NH boards and commissions to consolidate, continue, or conclude their service. He submitted an appraisal questionnaire to the committee suggesting the men’s commission go on as an individual body. Scott thanked Mike for doing this and Larry asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the questionnaire. Michael said he would try**

9. **Announcements – None**

10. **Public Input II –Mr. Peter White gave short testimony to ask a significant question: why is 401 K pension money counted twice. According to the NH child support guidelines income definitions people paying child support have total income include money in their 401 accounts. Mr. White lost his job and had to withdraw money from his 401 K to live. This money was then defined as more income increasing his child support payment. Mr. Tim Sanborn asked, ‘Who will speak for the fathers?’ Mr. Sanborn has two sons, 9 and 17 years-of-age. Mrs. Sanborn left the family to hook up with a man in Rye ending the marriage, according to Mr. Sanborn. His question was, ‘what kind of definition of marriage was being taught by this illegitimacy?’ Mr. Sanborn testified that the man is still married to another woman compounding the confusion for his sons.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Colby, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Friday February 26 2010 1:00 – 3:30 PM  
Legislative Office Building Room 206  
Concord NH**